



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION IX**

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

July 23, 2009

Ms. Linda Parks  
Ventura County Supervisor, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Government Center, Hall of Administration  
800 South Victoria Avenue  
Ventura, California 93009

Re: Santa Susana Field Laboratory Radiological Surveys

Dear Supervisor Parks:

I would like to thank you for your letter of May 28, 2009 to Administrator Jackson concerning EPA's radiological surveys at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory Site (SSFL). I am responding to your letter on her behalf.

We at EPA are aware and very sensitive to the incidences of cancer in the Oak Park area and other residential areas surrounding SSFL. We also understand that numerous residents are concerned about the extent of historic releases of radiological contaminants associated with the past operations at SSFL. We are coordinating your request with the State agency that is responsible for all site investigation and cleanup decisions. The lead regulatory agency for the investigation and cleanup of the SSFL site is the State of California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC).

EPA's role at this site is limited to the scope identified in the 2008 appropriations law, H.R. 2764. H.R. 2764 appropriated funds to Department of Energy (DOE) for environmental remediation activities at SSFL and required that a portion of those funds be used by DOE to enter into an interagency agreement with EPA to conduct a joint comprehensive radiological survey of Area IV of the SSFL. Consistent with H.R. 2764, EPA recently received funding from DOE to conduct the radiological study in SSFL Area IV and an adjacent area to the north of the site called the northern buffer zone.

We will begin this work using state-of-the art technologies to scan Area IV and the northern buffer zone for potential residual gamma radiation in near-surface soils. As results from this activity become available, EPA will plan our soil and water testing program. EPA will begin its soil and water investigations in on-site areas where the original spills and releases of contaminants occurred. If data obtained from these on-site sample collection activities indicate a need for testing off-site residential areas, we will work closely with DTSC, the lead regulatory agency for SSFL, to include collection of data in these areas.

Thank you again for your letter and your ongoing efforts to support the investigation and cleanup of the SSFL site. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me or your staff may contact Mr. Jim Vreeland, Congressional Liaison, at (415) 947-4298 or the EPA Project Manager for the site, Mr. Craig Cooper at (415) 947-4148.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael M. Montgomery", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael M. Montgomery

Assistant Director

Federal Facilities and Site Cleanup Branch

Cc: Norman Riley, DTSC